

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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R 171250Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6380

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, PDIP, ICRC, WMO, SZ, VN, VS, IN

SUBJECT: PRG ROLE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: EMBASSY
REPRESENTATION IN DELHI

REF:A. STATE 008673

B. STATE 010509

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY P.R. SOOD OF THE MEA U.N. AND CONFERENCE DIVISION JANUARY 17 TO MAKE THE APPROACHES REQUESTED IN REFTELS. SOOD WAS WELL VERSED ON BOTH CONFERENCES (ALTHOUGH THE WMO BALLOT HAD NOT YET REACHED THE MINISTRY) AND SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY BE SERVING ON THE INDIAN DELEGATION O THE LAW OF WAR GAHTERING.

2. IN PRESENTING THE USG POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS TO THE PRG AT THE 7TH WMO CONGRESS , WE PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE EVIDENTIARY QUESTION
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(PARA 3B, REFTEL B). SOOD NOTED THAT THIS WAS AN INTERESTING

ARGUMENT FROM THE INDIAN STANDPOINT, OBSERVING THAT THE GOI HAD PROVIDED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE POLITICAL SUPPORT O THE PRG IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS BUT THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN OTHER QUESTIONS WOULD BE IGNORED. WITHOUT PROMISING ANYTHING HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE PRG REALLY HAD A METEROLOGICAL SURVICE WHEN THE WMO BALLOT ARRIVED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR, SOOD SAID HE HAD RECENTLY EXAMINED THEM DURING A CALL BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONSULATE OFFICER HERE. (SOOD SAID IN RESPONXSE TO OUR QUESTION THAT THE PRG HAD NOT SIMILARLY CONTACTED THE MEA ON THE CONFERENCE, BUT THE LATTER HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM AN INDIAN DIPLOMATIC POST RECOUNTING A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH A PRG REPRESENTATIVE IN WHICH THE LATTER EXPRESSED DOUBT THE PRG SUPPORTERS COULD MUSTER A SIMPLE MAJORIY AT THE CON- FERENCE). SOOD SAID HE THOUGHT THE USG WAS JUSTIFIED IN AGRUING THAT RULE 32 (TWO-THIRDS VOTE) SHOULD BE APPLICABLE AT LEAST BEFORE RULE 35 (MAJORITY VOTE) WERE TO OPERATE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR SPECIFIC ARGUMENTS HE INDICATED HE WAS INCLINED TO OUR VIEW OF THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES BUT MAKE CLEAR AGAIN THAT ON SUBSTANCE THE GOI FELT COMMITTED TO THE PRG.

4. COMMENT- WE DARE NOT PREDICT WHEHER SOOD'S FAIRLY OPEN MINDED REACTION TO THE USG VIEW OF THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE PRG BID FOR STATUS AS THESE CONFERENCES WILL TRANSLATE INTO FAVORABLE INDIAN VOTES. JUDGING BY RECENT EXPERIENCE WE SHOULD BE PESSIMISTIC: SOOD ASSURED US THAT THE GOI WOULD PROPOSE THE U.N. SECRETARIAT SALARY INCREASES BUT ITS DELEGATION DID NOT HESITATE TO OPPOSE US (NEW DELHI 15492 NOTAL). JOINT

SECRETARY N.B. MENON TOLD US LAST YEAR HE DOUBTED INDIA WOULD AGREE TO A PRG OFFICE IN NEW DELHI BUT THE POLITICAL DECISION WAS LATER MADE TO ALLOW SUCH AN OFFICE. PRG VOTING IS A POLITICAL, NOT A LEGAL, CONSIDERATION FOR THE GOI AND ITS DECISIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED ONLY FRACTIONALLY BY TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ARGUMENTS. SOOD HIMSELF EXPECTS TO BE ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY TO THE INDIAN MISSION AT GENEVA AFTER HE TAKES PART IN THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT GOI SUPPORT MIGHT BE CRUCIAL IN THE WMO VOTE, OUR MISSION MIGHT WISH TO PRESENT MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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DETAILED EVIDENCE TO SOOD ON THE QUESTION OF PGR'S CLAIM TO HAVING A METEROLOGICAL SERVICE. WE BELIEVE SOOD COULD BE HELPFUL ON SOME PROCEDURAL ISSUES WHERE DELHI'S GENERAL DESIRE TO PLEASE ITS NON-ALIGNED FRIENDS ON THE PRG ISSUE IS NOT DIRECTLY PUT INTO QUESTION.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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